

# World Scouting



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## The World Organisation of the Scout Movement

Scouting began in 1907 in one country, the United Kingdom, based upon Lord Baden-Powell's ideas and his book "Scouting for Boys". But the book and programme proved to have great appeal for boys and quickly spread world-wide. While Scouting's Purpose, Promise and Law are timeless and universal, Scouting's flexible programme adapts to meet the needs of youth and their society wherever they live.

### Purpose, Principles and Method

Scouting is an educational Movement of and for young people. The purpose of Scouting is to help young people to develop physically, intellectually, socially and spiritually. It is a voluntary, non-political Movement which is open to all and which is based on:

- adherence to spiritual principles, loyalty to the religion that expresses them and acceptance of the duties resulting from them
- loyalty to one's country in harmony with the promotion of peace, understanding and co-operation
- responsibility for the development of oneself
- participation in the development of society with recognition and respect for the dignity of all people and for the integrity of the natural world
- a method of progressive self-education comprising programmes adapted to the various age groups and based upon a Promise and Law, learning by doing, working in small groups, a scheme of personal progression and activities taking place in contact with nature.

### The World Organisation

The World Organisation of the Scout Movement (WOSM) is an international, non-governmental organisation which is composed of three principal parts: the Conference, Committee and Bureau.

## The World Scout Conference

The conference is the "general assembly" of Scouting, composed of all member Scout organisations. Only one National Scout Organisation can be recognised per country (where there is more than one Scout Association in a country, a federation must be formed for world membership). The basis for an organisation's recognition and membership includes adherence to the purpose and principles of World Scouting.

The conference meets every three years, most recently in Greece (2002) and Tunisia (2005).

### The World Scout Committee

The Committee consists of 12 people from 12 different countries, elected to represent the diversity of World Scouting, not their own national interest, in the period between the triennial conferences. Each person normally serves a six-year term. Ex-officio members are the Secretary General and the Honorary Treasurer.

### The World Scout Bureau

The Bureau is the secretariat, carrying out the instructions of the Conference and Committee. The staff of professionals works out of ten offices - the central office in Geneva, Switzerland plus regional offices in Chile, Egypt, Switzerland, Kenya, Philippines and Ukraine, with sub-offices in Belgium, Serbia and Montenegro, Senegal, South Africa and Russia.

The Bureau helps Scout Associations to improve and develop their Scouting by conducting training courses, development seminars, workshops, management courses, preparing publications and advising on organisation, financing, communications etc. The staff also helps to arrange global events such as the four-yearly World Scout Jamborees and acts as liaison between the World Organisation and other bodies,

### The Scout Information Centre

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particularly other world youth organisations, organs of the United Nations and government departments, particularly where Scouting wishes to have more support from governments.

## Finance

Bureau operations are financed partly by an annual registration fee, paid by Scout organisations on the basis of membership and GDP of the country. Other support comes from foundations, corporations, development agencies and individuals.

Support also comes from the World Scout Foundation which, while building a capital fund, uses the investment income to benefit World Scouting. The Honorary President is HM Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden.

## World Scout Membership

There are more than 28 million Scouts, youth and adults, boys and girls, in 216 countries and territories.

There are 155 countries with internationally recognised National Scout Organisations. (The newest member countries are Albania, Guinea, and Malawi, which became members in September 2005).

There are 26 main territories where Scouting exists, often as overseas branches of member Scout organisations:

Anguilla  
Antarctica  
Aruba  
Bermuda  
Cayman Islands  
Cocos (Keeling) Islands  
Cook Islands  
Falkland Islands  
Faroe Islands  
French Guiana  
French Polynesia  
Gibraltar  
Greenland  
Guadeloupe  
Martinique  
Montserrat  
New Caledonia  
Norfolk Island  
Puerto Rico  
Réunion  
Saint Helena  
Saint Pierre and Miquelon  
Turks and Caicos Islands  
Virgin Islands, British  
Virgin Islands, U.S.

Wallis and Futuna

There are 33 countries where Scouting exists (be it embryonic or widespread) but where there is no National Scout Organization which is yet a member of the World Organization of the Scout Movement.

*Note: In the independent countries marked with a "\*\*", there is a Scout Association which is a branch of a WOSM member.*

Afghanistan  
Antigua and Barbuda\*  
Belarus  
Cambodia  
Central African Republic  
Congo  
Djibouti  
East Timor  
Equatorial Guinea  
Eritrea  
Guinea-Bissau  
Iran  
Iraq  
Kazakhstan  
Kyrgyzstan  
Mali  
Marshall Islands\*  
Micronesia, Federated States of\*  
Nauru  
Palau  
Saint Kitts and Nevis\*  
Samoa  
Sao Tome and Principe  
Solomon Islands \*  
Somalia  
Syrian Arab Republic  
Tonga\*  
Turkmenistan  
Tuvalu\*  
Ukraine  
Uzbekistan  
Vanuatu\*  
Vietnam

WOSM maintains official contacts with the Scouts of Macau, and French Polynesia, which are associate members of the Asia-Pacific Scout Region, and with the Scouts of the Netherlands Antilles, an associate member of the Inter American Scout Region.

There are 6 countries where Scouting, to WOSM's knowledge, does not exist; in some it would not be allowed. These are:

Andorra  
People's Republic of China  
Cuba  
Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Lao People's Democratic Republic  
Myanmar

The most recent membership figures for National Scout Organisations around the world are shown on the attached list.

Source: World Scout Bureau: September 2005

Country	Membership	Joined WOSM	Scouting Founded
Albania	1,000	2005	
Algeria	11,120	1963	1939
Angola	13,777	1998	
Argentina	44,981	1922	1912
Armenia	2,256	1997	1912
Australia	98,084	1953	1908
Austria	13,785	1922	1912
Azerbaijan	1,414	2000	1997
Bahamas	729	1974	1913
Bahrain	1,820	1970	1953
Bangladesh	908,435	1974	1972
Barbados	3,032	1969	1912
Belgium	88,271	1922	1911
Belize	1,211	1987	1911
Benin	19,605	1964	1932
Bhutan	6,716	1999	1991
Bolivia	7,521	1950	1915
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1,514	1999	
Botswana	4,660	1958	1936
Brazil	66,375	1922	1910
Brunei Darussalam	2,772	1981	1933
Bulgaria	1,832	1999	1911-13
Burkina Faso	10,165	1972	1943
Burundi	6,661	1979	1940
Cape Verde	1,500	2002	
Cameroon	6,535	1971	1937
Canada	212,259	1946	1909
Chad	8,132	1974	1960
Chile	33,812	1922	1909
China, Scouts of	69,452	1937	1912
Colombia	12,808	1933	1917
Comoros	2,200	1990	1975
Congo, The Democratic Republic of The	62,842	1963	1924
Costa Rica	9,752	1925	1915
Côte-d'Ivoire	6,436	1972	1937
Croatia	4,068	1993	1915
Cyprus	4,478	1961	1913
Czech Republic	26,435	1996	1911
Denmark	47,475	1922	1909
Dominica	1,100	1990	1929
Dominican Republic	8,702	1930	1926
Ecuador	4,132	1922	1920
Egypt	74,598	1922	1918
El Salvador	3,970	1940	1938
Estonia	1,167	1996	1912
Ethiopia	1,000	2002	1950
Fiji	2,821	1971	1914
Finland	26,885	1922	1910
France	102,405	1922	1910
Gabon	3,835	1971	1936
Gambia	15,632	1984	1921
Georgia	1,092	1997	1994
Germany	123,937	1950	1910
Ghana	2,311	1960	1912

Greece	18,992	1922	1910	Republic of			
Grenada	1,665	1979	1924	Madagascar	9,473	1960	1921
Guatemala	11,395	1930	1928	Malawi	4,000	2005	
Guinea		2005		Malaysia	96,893	1957	1911
Guyana	294	1967	1909	Maldives	4,518	1990	1963
Haiti	9,859	1932	1932	Malta	2,531	1966	1908
Honduras	5,174	1957	1952	Mauritania	3,790	1983	1946
Hong Kong	74,147	1977	1911	Mauritius	3,076	1971	1912
Hungary	11,243	1990	1912	Mexico	39,327	1926	1920
Iceland	1,526	1924	1912	Moldova, Republic of	1,540	1997	1991
India	2,138,015	1938	1909	Monaco	49	1990	
Indonesia	8,909,435	1953	1912	Mongolia	8,655	1994	1992
Ireland	36,783	1949	1908	Morocco	12,304	1961	1933
Israel	21,920	1951	1920	Mozambique	16,675	1999	1960
Italy	100,675	1922	1912	Namibia	1,816	1990	1917
Jamaica	6,272	1963	1910	Nepal	12,341	1969	1952
Japan	220,223	1922	1913	Netherlands	57,484	1922	1910
Jordan	15,538	1955	1954	New Zealand	23,537	1953	1908
Kenya	151,722	1964	1910	Nicaragua	2,056	1948	1937
Kiribati	1,333	1993		Niger	4,352	1996	1947
Korea, Republic of	252,157	1953	1922	Nigeria	46,701	1961	1915
Kuwait	6,061	1955	1952	Norway	19,929	1922	1911
Latvia	1,179	1993	1917	Oman	10,654	1977	1948
Lebanon	14,334	1947	1912	Pakistan	526,403	1948	1947
Lesotho	371	1971	1936	Palestinian Authority	20,275	1996	1912
Liberia	2,418	1965	1922	Panama	2,263	1950	1924
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	13,698	1958	1954	Papua New Guinea	2,811	1976	1926
Liechtenstein	752	1933	1931	Paraguay	1,000	1962	1960
Lithuania	1,500	1997	1918	Peru	12,677	1922	1916
Luxembourg	5,418	1922	1914	Philippines	1,956,131	1946	1923
Macedonia, The former Yugoslav	1,988	1997	1921	Poland	85,822	1996	1919

Portugal	70,863	1922	1913	Tobago			
Qatar	3,244	1965	1956	Tunisia	28,483	1957	1934
Romania	4,930	1993	1914	Turkey	8,174	1950	1923
Russian Federation	14,000	2000	1909	Uganda	77,894	1964	1915
Rwanda	18,884	1975	1940	United Arab Emirates	5,824	1977	1972
San Marino	159	1990	1973	United Kingdom	498,888	1922	1907
Saudi Arabia	19,267	1963	1961	United States	6,239,435	1922	1909
Senegal	26,373	1963	1930	Uruguay	3,965	1950	1946
Seychelles		2002		Venezuela	14,513	1937	1913
Sierra Leone	7,902	1964	1909	Yemen	6,481	1980	1954
Singapore	11,163	1966	1910	Zambia	7,427	1965	1930
Slovakia	4,118	1997	1913	Zimbabwe	1,612	1980	1909
Slovenia	6,357	1994	1915				
South Africa	13,118	1937	1908				
Spain	74,561	1922	1912				
Sri Lanka	21,653	1953	1912				
Saint Lucia	393	1990	1935				
Saint Vincent and The Grenadines	541	1990	1924				
Serbia and Montenegro	30,493	1995	1915				
Sudan	13,550	1956	1935				
Suriname	2,601	1968	1924				
Swaziland	4,994	1968	1928				
Sweden	60,122	1922	1911				
Switzerland	52,349	1922	1912				
Tajikistan	1,504	1997	1991				
Tanzania, United Republic of	102,739	1963	1929				
Thailand	1,305,027	1922	1911				
Togo	8,890	1977	1920				
Trinidad &	4,655	1963	1911				

**Membership:** The membership which is shown in these countries represents only the members (youth and adults) of the World Organisation of the Scout Movement (WOSM), which in most countries includes boys and girls. In some countries - mostly in Europe - the national organisation is larger than indicated here because it includes girls who are members of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts.

**Joined WOSM:** The date given is the most recent year that the National Scout Organisation joined the WOSM. Organisations in some countries were World Scouting members in earlier years than shown here, but Scouting was disbanded for a period of time.

**Scouting founded:** This information is taken from published sources. Note that countries use different standards to define "founded". It may mean the year the first Scout group was formed, or when the national organisation was formed, or chartered, etc.

Source: World Scout Bureau: September 2005